

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: 8E309350-1AB2-4CA2-A5D7-1C5823F62DA9

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1900598.014

Medium: Video File

Creator: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: Chinese

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Unrestricted.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 19 February 2020

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 19 February 2020

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	8E309350-1AB2-4CA2-A5D7-1C5823F62DA9	0:56
Total running time:		0:56

Summary of reasons for decision:

‘8E309350-1AB2-4CA2-A5D7-1C5823F62DA9’ depicts a man filming himself eating the head of a dead rat. The act presents as a gross stunt rather than anything sinister. The Classification Office is unaware of there being any social media challenges that involve this activity but the act may well be a personal dare or challenge of some sort given the comments made by the man. The appeal of the video lies in the outrageousness of the act which is likely to engender a reaction of shock and disgust. Whilst some viewers may be horrified, the actions of the man cannot seriously be considered a matter or horror. Nor does the video depict cruelty, as the rat is dead, nor is it a crime to perform this act. The content of the video does not bring it within the s3(1) "subject matter gateway" of the Films,

Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act) and therefore consideration has been given to the way it deals with imitable conduct under s3B of the FVPC Act. Given the nature of the act, the risk of imitation is likely to be extremely low even for young, impressionable viewers and a restriction on its availability for that reason is unwarranted in this case. Therefore the video file is classified as unrestricted. This classification is consistent with the right to freedom of expression as stated under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.